

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

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Club Reciprocity Is Working Again

OPC's reciprocal service and facilities arrangements with some 50 other press clubs around the world have been reinstated. The news was given the Board of Governors at their Nov. 29 meeting by President *Henry Gellermann*. The reinstatement was accomplished, he told them, after six months of arduous negotiations.

The difficulties began when OPC moved into its new quarters at the Chemists' Club, which refused to accept payment for goods or services by check, cash or credit card from members of out-of-town clubs having a reciprocal agreement with OPC. The Chemists' Club House Committee, honoring a tradition of many years, maintained that "good clubs do not handle or accept check payments."

Countering this, President Gellermann pointed out that "we live in a cashless society" and that the Chemists' Club was somewhat less than "in step with the times and reality."

Compounding the problem was the Chemists' Club plan to hold out-of-town press clubs responsible for their visiting members' indebtedness — a proposal totally unacceptable to all press clubs, including OPC.

President Gellermann was finally able to persuade the Chemists' Club House Committee to appoint a special committee to study the problem from the standpoint of "how it can be done instead of 'if it should be done.'"

At a Nov. 21 meeting of the special committee, *Russ Tornabene*, chairman of OPC's Membership Committee and *Harry Rand*, co-chairman, joined Gellermann in a strong presentation in favor of establishing credit facilities for out-of-town members.

Breakthrough Accomplished

The special committee voted to activate immediately a program based on the use of existing credit cards

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Board of Governors extends season's greetings and warmest wishes for the coming year to all members and their families.

Henry Gellermann, President

held by visitors, making a credit operation available to all cooperating clubs. Guests will be billed directly by the Chemists' Club instead of having the bills go through their own clubs.

This proposal, accepted by OPC, becomes effective Jan. 1. It is subject to final approval by the Chemists' Club Board of Governors. A 6-month trial period was agreed upon to smooth out any wrinkles. Pertinent information is being sent to all corresponding clubs in the U.S. and overseas, with releases for use in their publications and on bulletin boards.

Lee Israel Talks About Kilgallen

Lee Israel will be the OPC's guest at a luncheon on Monday, Jan. 7, at 12:30 p.m. to discuss her new best-seller "Kilgallen." This book presents a wholly new picture of Dorothy Kilgallen, tracing her career with Hearst, through her torrid affair with Johnny Ray to her mysterious death shortly after her exclusive interview with Jack Ruby.

OPCers should be especially interested since it recounts the part played by the OPC when Dorothy Kilgallen, a panelist at one of our book programs, gave F. Lee Bailey (a guest) the information he needed to secure the freedom of his client, Sam Sheppard.

Please reserve since we will operate on a first-come basis: Mary Novick, 769-9650.

Roy Rowan to Head Press Freedom Group

Roy Rowan, a member of the Board of Governors and an editor of *Fortune*, has been named chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee, one of OPC's most important committees.



Roy Rowan

"Mr. Rowan's many years of international experience, in addition to his domestic activities," President *Henry Gellermann* said in making the appointment, "provide him with a thorough understanding of news reporters' problems in an atmosphere on both international and domestic scenes where restrictions and interference with members of the media are increasing at an alarming rate."

Before going to *Fortune*, Mr. Rowan served with *Life* in Shanghai, Rome, Korea and Bonn, became bureau chief of *Time-Life* in Chicago, national editor and then assistant managing editor of *Life*.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Club will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday.

The Club will also be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.

Are Foreign Correspondents An 'Endangered Species?'

Is the American foreign correspondent really an endangered species? Last September's *Bulletin* of the American Society of Newspaper Editors took a new look at a question that has been troubling U.S. news people for some years. Excerpted here are some of its more pertinent points.

From Loren Ghiglione, publisher and editor, Southbridge (Mass.) *Evening News*:

Studies of American foreign correspondents overseas for the past 30 years have concluded that U.S. correspondents are "vanishing," "declining," "diminishing," disappearing."

But earlier this year, Leonard J. Baldyga, in a study for the State Department, concluded that "There appears to have been almost no change in total numbers of overseas personnel of American newsgathering organizations in the past four years."

Baldyga's report, however, suggests other questions. With the high cost of keeping a correspondent overseas — estimated at \$150,000 a year — can American newspapers be expected to develop their own foreign stories? Will newspapers shift to using free-lancers or basing reporters at home and jetting them to short-term overseas assignments?

* * *

From James K. Batten, vice president, Knight-Ridder Newspapers:

Knight-Ridder's reasons for deciding to send eight correspondents abroad in the next two years are fairly straightforward. We are convinced that a sizable minority of our readers — and a particularly important minority — are actively interested in foreign news. Surveys show that readers have strong appetites for news of world events. Editors who cynically shrug off foreign news, we think, are making a mistake.

We want to attract and keep the best newspaper talent we can find. And many of the best young people in our business want intensely to report from abroad at some point in their careers. We think our news bureaus will be a great boon to recruiting and keeping top talent.

Short-term traveling assignments will continue to be important. But we believe the overall quality — and especially the diversity and consistency — of our foreign report will be sharply enhanced by having eight correspondents reporting from bases around the world.

If the old-school approach to foreign correspondence had great strengths, it also had some weakness. Our correspondents will not become foreign-bureau careerists, risking possible

loss of touch with American readers. We expect tours of two to three years to be the norm. We also expect our correspondents to avoid hanging around their base cities reporting on parliaments and politics in which few readers have much interest.

The emphasis in most cases will be on hard-charging mobility, going after important, high-impact stories wherever they are.

* * *

From John C. Quinn, senior vice president, Gannett Newspapers:

Foreign datelines in the Gannett News Service reports are becoming commonplace as news staffers travel overseas with increased frequency, over a wider geography, for a greater variety of stories. These are United States-based reporters who chase foreign headlines on an assignment-by-assignment basis in terms of their own expertise and the particular interests of Gannett newspaper readers.

While this reach overseas originated generally with coverage of major stories — summit talks, treaty signings, Papal installations — more and more of the assignments are focusing on life and times abroad — social currents, economic developments, life-style trends and other such topics of general interest in a shrinking and changing world.

The GNS foreign report also includes special reports on assignment by free-lance correspondents based overseas.

* * *

From Denis Gosselin, assistant manager editor/news and features, *Chicago Tribune*:

The Tribune today depends on a mix of permanent overseas bureaus and a core of Chicago-based special correspondents for its own foreign coverage. The paper has three long-established bureaus in London, Bonn and Moscow. This year we opened a Mideast bureau in Tel Aviv and an Africa bureau in Nairobi. We plan to open a bureau in Peking.

Since mid-1976, U.S.-based correspondents have made nearly 100 trips to more than 70 countries to cover the news. Often these were team efforts, involving another correspondent from Chicago or one of the foreign bureaus and a photographer.

This system was the result, for the most part, of two factors: one, the bureau system we had maintained since World War II was outdated — top-heavy in Europe and light in Asia and elsewhere; two, economics: the shrinking value of the dollar and skyrocketing inflation continued to drive up the costs

of maintaining permanent bureaus.

The savings from the bureau closings were budgeted into a travel fund for U.S.-based correspondents to cover overseas stories. At the same time, *The Tribune* hired experienced and talented foreign correspondents who have the background and the ability of flying anywhere in the world to cover the news.

An Insider's Inside Report

Mort Rosenblum has the job many members of the Overseas Press Club dream of having — editor of the *International Herald Tribune* — and now, he has written the book many members dream of writing — a book about foreign correspondents.

It is called "Coups & Earthquakes." It is published by Harper & Row. It sells for \$10.95, and it is worth every sou.

Mort describes the book, in his preface, as "an insider's look at foreign reporting — a simple spilling of the beans." He begins with Red Knickerbocker's famous line about newspapermen being a little bunch of madmen, trying to get into some place that thousands of sane people are trying to leave.

Mort points out that the system of presenting foreign news to the American public is "riddled with failings" and "responds inadequately" when called upon to explain complex events abroad, a criticism which we, workers in the vineyard, must accept.

The surprises of Iran provide more than ample proof of his thesis.

Mort tells anecdotes to illustrate the difficulties of reporting abroad. There is a chapter, in the style of Evelyn Waugh's "Scoop," about coverage of "The West Malaria Rebellion."

But he also hands out praise to a number of correspondents who do a "damned good job," some of them winners of OPC awards, including Homer Bigart, Flora Lewis, Jim Hoagland, *Malcolm Browne* and *Peter Arnett*.

The book concludes with a constructive chapter on "Doing Better," a prescription for improving comprehension of foreign affairs "within the existing system" by printing more foreign news and relating it more closely to the American public.

—Henry Cassidy

LETTERS

SEOUL, KOREA, Oct. 12, 1979 — Seoul District Criminal Court sentenced Chi-Jung-Kwan, 39, to 15 years imprisonment, Oct. 8. He is a former news photographer, an employee of Camera Press, a British photo news agency headquartered in London.

Chi-Jung-Kwan is also banned from elected or official positions for the same period, having been charged with violation of the National Security law, the Anti-Communist law and the criminal code.

According to the ruling by the three-judge panel, he engaged not only in espionage activities but also in the work of reconstructing the now defunct "Unification Revolution Party" on instructions from Chochongnyon, an organization of Koreans living in Japan who support the North Korean regime.

Photo correspondent Chi-Jung-Kwan is a member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

According to the local English language newspaper, photographer Chi-Jung-Kwan supplied pictures of military installations and equipment to Chochongnyon as a visiting national in the name of news coverage.

He took part in the U.S.-Korea joint military exercise, called Team Spirit, as a correspondent.

Life imprisonment had been demanded for Chi-Jung-Kwan by the Seoul district prosecution.

The Chi-Jung-Kwan problem was cited by OPC President *Henry Gellermann* as an important case at the OPC annual meeting last April 30.

Most Korean language local newspapers named Chi-Jung-Kwan as a Tokyo correspondent from the Gamma photo service of France.

Chi-Jung-Kwan was arrested on April 19 by the Korean National Police Headquarters and charged with espionage for the North Korea regime.

— Young Sick Kim

Bernays Honored

OPC'er **Edward L. Bernays**, whose 88 years have slowed but not stayed him, was honored recently with the President's Award of the International Public Relations Society for his contribution to worldwide understanding. He is the first American to receive this award, which last year went to the International Red Cross and the year before to the Nobel Foundation. Sanat Lahiri of India, IPRA president, made the presentation at a ceremony in Boston.

Press Freedom Remains Shaky

The Carter Administration's bill to prohibit searches of newsrooms and reporters by law-enforcement officials was criticized for "serious flaws and loopholes" by Robert Lewis, Washington correspondent for Newhouse News Service and chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

Lewis spoke at the 70th anniversary national convention of SPJ/SDX in New York in mid-November.

The loopholes, Lewis said, include an exception in the bill that would allow searches if the information sought related to national defense or if it was classified or restricted information. "Had this bill been in effect at the time of the Pentagon papers story, it would have made a search of the *New York Times* possible," he said.

Lewis said there have been many setbacks to a free press in the past year. Heading this list was the Supreme Court's Gannett decision upholding the closing of a pretrial hearing in a New York state court.

"In what we think is a misinterpretation of this appalling ruling, judges are closing entire trials, as well as pre-indictment and post-trial proceedings," he said. "At last count there have been nearly 100 attempts to close all or parts of trials since the July 2 Gannett decision."

The SPJ/SDX convention also heard Assistant U.S. Attorney General Philip Heymann defend the Administration's anti-search bill and say that some members of the press are endangering passage of the bill. These press members contend that the First Amendment guarantees freedom of the press and

that the press should not be singled out for special legislation. They argue that such legislation should also protect doctors, lawyers and other groups.

Heymann said that broadening the legislation proposed by the Administration could prevent passage of such legislation.

— Ralph Leviton

OPC'er and Deadline Club member, managed the convention press room.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER

THE STEEL SERVICE CENTER INSTITUTE

is a voluntary trade association which represents America's metal service center industry. With 1,500 outlets serving the materials supply needs of some 200,000 manufacturers and fabricators all across the country, service centers today account for a surprising \$14 billion a year in sales. Between 1960 and 1970, the metal service center industry doubled in volume. Today, service centers handle one-fifth of all of the steel consumed in the U.S., plus equal amounts of aluminum and copper products. By 1980, the industry will double in size over its 1970 level.

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A SPECIAL NEW MEMBER

Mr. Henry Gellermann, President
Overseas Press Club of America

I received your letter of November 20th informing me of the honor of becoming a member of the Overseas Press Club. I accept with great pleasure and with a great sense of humility to be counted among those who devote their lives to the written word.

Jules always loved the Club and when I told him about this, he was very pleased and felt honored that his contributions to the Club were recognized.

I am having a few days vacation before Christmas and plan to visit the Club. I will let you know when.

— Maxine Frantz



OPC BULLETIN

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, George E. Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Thomas J. Kraner, Rosalind Moore, Grace Naismith, Charles J. Schreiber, Associates.

Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

MOVED: Maurice Ragsdale and his wife, Heather, have moved from their Westchester, N.Y., home to Ormond Beach, Fla. — 53 Sandcastle Drive, 32074. Ragsdale is a former senior editor of *The Reader's Digest*, his responsibility, the book digest in each issue.

MAGAZINES: Articles by Marguerite Vauclair have appeared recently in EXPORT/EL EXPORTADOR, *The Miami Herald* and the *San Francisco Examiner*.

SAD NEWS: Word has just been received of the death of Stella Margold, formerly a correspondent for the UN, *The Hartford Times*, *The Boston Globe* and other publications. A lively, ambitious little lady, Stella Margold was an ardent supporter of the OPC and all its activities.

BOOK: Of interest to all newspaper people is a new book, "Chicago Tribune," the story of the rise of the great American newspaper. Lloyd Wendt is the author; Rand McNally & Company the publisher. Grace Naismith has a copy of the 860-page book and will share it with OPC members who wish to borrow it.

Frederick H. Sontag has been elected a trustee of Husson College, a 4-year liberal arts college in Bangor, Maine. He is the senior member of the Husson board of advisors, chosen originally by the college's founder, Chesley Husson.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Sigma Delta Chi has announced its Awards for Distinguished Service in Journalism for 1979. Categories include newspapers, magazines, radio, television and research about journalism. Entry Deadline: Jan. 25, 1980. Each nomination must be accompanied by a nomination form, exhibit and \$5 handling fee. Details from Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Service Awards, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

CONTRIBUTORS: The holidays have slowed the news, which usually is too much to print in this column, but after Christmas please send in your letters of promotions and changes in careers, new books and articles and just plain gossip. It is amazing how widely this little column is read. Way back when Lucile Pierlot was editor of *The Bulletin*, Bob Considine once wrote that he didn't know of any publication in the U.S. or abroad "which reaches more top-flight editors, correspondents and advertising executives, and is more voraciously consumed." So send in the news and make the column an intimate, affectionate, worthwhile information medium.

Dr. Singer to Plan Annual Award Dinner

Appointment of Dr. Henry A. Singer as chairman of the club's 41st annual awards dinner, next April at the Waldorf Astoria, has been announced by President Henry Gellermann.

Dr. Singer, an OPC member for 25 years, was formerly vice chairman of the American Nobel Anniversary dinners. As executive director of the American Society for Advanced Management, he organized major conferences and dinners throughout the U.S. and abroad.

He has recently returned from Hong Kong, where he was a visiting professor in communications and psychology at the Hong Kong Polytechnic. In Hong Kong, he was active in the Foreign Correspondents Club and wrote for its publication, *The Correspondent*.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Active Resident

Richard Barkle, Director, Public Communications, Pan American World Airlines
SPONSORS: Roy Rowan and Marylois Purdy Vega

Mel Beiser, Manager, Business Information Services, Mead Data Control Inc.
SPONSORS: Ralph R. Schulz and Onnic Marashian

Stella Dong, Assistant News Editor, Publishers Weekly Magazine
SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Harry Rand

Margaret E. Eastman, Asst. Managing Editor, "Electronics"
SPONSORS: E. W. Williams and Henry Gellermann

Joann Giusto, Asst. Editor, Publishers Weekly Magazine
SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Harry Rand

Amelia Lobsenz, Chairman of the Board/CEO Lobsenz-Stevens Inc.
SPONSORS: Oscar Schisgall and Henry Gellermann
William J. O'Shea, Director, News Services, New York Times
SPONSORS: Rob Roy Buckingham and Sam Summerlin

Active Non-Resident

Stormi L. Greener, Staff Photographer, Minneapolis Star & Tribune Co.

SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Harry Rand

John Rhea, Self-employed, Washington Communications Service

SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Harry Rand

Thomas D. Yeago, Contributing Editor, Shenandoah Valley Magazine

SPONSORS: Jeffrey Wexler and Harry Rand

Active Overseas

Ellen Wallace, Self-employed
SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Pamela Andriotakis

Associate Resident

Frank Schwartzman, President, The Frank Schwartzman Co., Inc.

SPONSORS: Henry Gellermann and Ben Greenwald

Associate Non-Resident

John F. Resen, Associate Publisher, Shenandoah Valley Magazine

SPONSORS: Jeffrey Wexler and Henry Gellermann

Jack Schlossberg, Contributing Editor, The Stock Market Magazine

SPONSORS: Eliot M. Stark and Johannes Steel

REINSTATEMENTS

Wesley First
William H. Lander
Ross McKee

CHANGE OF STATUS

from Associate Resident to Active Resident

Karl Katz
Laurie Nadel

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.

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